

Message Text

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E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: WHO, US, VM

SUBJECT: WORLD HEALTH ASSEMBLY: APPROACH BY SRV REPRESENTATIVE

REF: GENEVA 07234

1. DEPARTMENT APPRECIATES DELEGATION'S ALERT REPORT OF "DOCTOR TO DOCTOR" APPROACH BY SRV DELEGATION MEMBER. WE REQUEST DR. BRYANT MAKE FOLLOWING RESPONSE TO DIRECTOR OF EXTERNAL RELATIONS TRONG IN THE SAME LOW KEY MANNER AS DR. TRONG'S CONVERSATION:

2. THE UNITED STATES HAS NO OBJECTION TO HUMANITARIAN
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DONATIONS TO VIETNAM OF MEDICAL EQUIPMENT OR SUPPLIES BY PRIVATE AMERICAN ORGANIZATIONS. LICENSES FROM THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE, AND IN SOME CASES TREASURY, ARE NECESSARY TO OBTAIN EXCEPTIONS TO THE EXISTING TRADE EMBARGO. THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE HAS RECOMMENDED FAVORABLY ON REQUESTS FOR COMMERCE OR TREASURY DEPARTMENT LICENSES FOR HUMANITARIAN DONATIONS SINCE 1975. FYI ONLY: IN THE PAST THREE

YEARS, THE USG HAS APPROVED OVER 7 MILLION DOLS WORTH OF LICENSES FOR PRIVATE HUMANITARIAN AID TO VIETNAM. JUST RECENTLY WE APPROVED THE SHIPMENT TO VIETNAM OF 10,000 TONS OF RICE (DONATED BY THE CHURCH WORLD SERVICE) WORTH 1.5

MILLION DOLS. WE HAVE BEEN LIBERAL IN OUR INTERPRETATION OF WHAT CONSTITUTES HUMANITARIAN AID. UNDER THIS RUBRIC WE HAVE LICENSED NOT ONLY FOOD, CLOTHING, MEDICINE AND MEDICAL EQUIPMENT BUT ALSO MACHINERY FOR A VOCATIONAL REHABILITATION CENTER AND VARIOUS KINDS OF AGRICULTURAL EQUIPMENT. ON A REGULAR BASIS WE HAVE ALSO ALLOWED COMMERCIAL SALES OF HEALTH-RELATED COMMODITIES TO THE WHO FOR DONATION TO THE SRV HEALTH MINISTRY. END FYI.

3. OFFICIAL, USG-FUNDED ASSISTANCE TO VIETNAM IN THE FORM OF EQUIPMENT, MEDICINES OR EXCHANGE OF SPECIALISTS IS CURRENTLY PROHIBITED BY U.S. LAW. THE USG WOULD BE RECEPTIVE IN PRINCIPLE, HOWEVER, TO VIETNAMESE MEDICAL, TECHNICAL AND SCIENTIFIC DELEGATIONS VISITING THE U.S. UNDER PRIVATE SPONSORS. IT IS POSSIBLE THAT THREE VIETNAMESE SCIENTISTS WILL VISIT THE U.S. UNDER PRIVATE SPONSORSHIP (BY UNIVERSITIES OF CHICAGO, CALIFORNIA AND YALE) BEFORE THE END OF 1978. EACH PROPOSAL WOULD OF COURSE HAVE TO BE EXAMINED ON A CASE-BY-CASE BASIS. SIMILARLY, WE CONSIDER PRIVATE VISITS BY U.S. SPECIALISTS TO VIETNAM HELPFUL IN IMPROVING RELATIONS. AMCIT TRAVEL IS UNRESTRICTED. CONFIDENTIAL

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4. ONCE DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS ARE ESTABLISHED, EMBASSIES IN PLACE AND THE EMBARGO LIFTED, THE USG BELIEVES THAT THERE COULD BE AN EXPANSION OF THE EXCHANGE OF PERSONS AND TECHNICAL EXPERTISE IN MEDICINE AND SCIENCE GENERALLY, AND USG WOULD BE IN A POSITION TO FUND EXCHANGES.

5. FYI ONLY: TO OUR KNOWLEDGE, DR. TRONG'S IS FIRST APPROACH OF THIS KIND BY A VIETNAMESE OFFICIAL TO A U.S. REPRESENTATIVE AT AN OFFICIAL INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE. WE WISH TO RESPOND IN AS FORTHCOMING AND POSITIVE MANNER AS POSSIBLE WITHOUT REPEAT WITHOUT CONVEYING ANY SENSE OF EAGERNESS. DR. BRYANT SHOULD MAKE SURE THAT DR. TRONG UNDERSTANDS THAT HIS (TRONG'S) "PERSONAL" MESSAGE HAS RECEIVED CAREFUL ATTENTION AND THAT OUR RESPONSE HAS BEEN SIMILARLY WELL CONSIDERED. END FYI.

6. DEPARTMENT WOULD APPRECIATE LEARNING DR. TRONG'S RESPONSE AS SOON AS POSSIBLE TOGETHER WITH ANY OTHER DETAILS ABOUT HOW THIS INITIATIVE CAME ABOUT. VANCE

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